

Begich, succeeded Representative Pollock as Alaska's lone Member of the U.S. House.

In 1971, John became a legislative assistant to then-Senator Ted Stevens. His wise counsel to Senator Stevens would continue until Senator Stevens' tragic passing last year. John worked in Alaska on Native claims issues and as counsel to the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. The Commission didn't have a very sexy title, but it crafted important policy about the land management relations between the State and Federal Governments. From 1981 to 1983, John served as commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, arguably the most influential agency in Alaska State government. It oversees Alaska's 103 million acres of land and manages the resource base for our economy: oil and gas, mining, forestry, parks, and agriculture. In 1983, John was asked by then-Governor Bill Sheffield to move to Washington to direct the State's office here. It was a position in which he would serve seven different Alaska Governors, as varied politically as Alaska is richly diverse.

Democrats, Republicans, one Alaska Independent—all have relied heavily on John's encyclopedic knowledge of our State and his helping navigating the often choppy waters of Washington. Too often John's mission has been fighting against Federal encroachment into the lives of Alaskans. It is a battle we fight here every day. I, too, have relied on John's wisdom and insight, as mayor of our State's largest city, and now as I serve Alaska in this Chamber. After a distinguished career, John has cited what he called "the increased polarization and deterioration of the public policy process at the Federal level." He says it is the worst he has ever seen in nearly half a century of thankless public service. I am saddened by this turn of events and sad to agree with John about the state of our national discourse.

But I am heartened by John's dedication to the people of Alaska, to tirelessly working each and every day to educate non-Alaskans about the unique challenges and opportunities of our State. I also commend the contributions of John's longtime partner and wife, Sherry, and thank her for her sacrifice on behalf of Alaskans. John will be sorely missed as director of State and Federal relations for the State of Alaska. I only hope that he continues his distinguished service to Alaskans in the next phase of his life—and I wish him all the best.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3010. An act to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents.

H.R. 3463. An act to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3010. An act to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3463. An act to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1944. A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4171. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Grouper Management Measures" (RIN0648-BB22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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EC-4172. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Update to Information on the Effective Date of Atlantic Smoothhound Shark Fishery Management Measures" (RIN0648-BB43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4173. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XA802) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4174. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-BA66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4175. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 26 and Amendment 29 Supplement" (RIN0648-BB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4176. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments" (RIN0648-BB47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4177. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders" (RIN0648-XA803) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4178. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Temporary Removal of Herring Trip Limit in Atlantic Herring Management Area 3" (RIN0648-XA805) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4179. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason